



# Public Service Announcement



Chaz  
 [cvillette](https://cvillette.livejournal.com/)  
<https://cvillette.livejournal.com/2008-10-04> 15:09:00

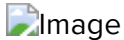
MOOD: 😊 try this at home

The Federal Bureau of Instigation would like to warn all citizens about the dangers inherent in Halloween. To wit:

Pumpkin carving for the obsessive, resulting in porch decoration so awesome the artist will have to sit up all night in the front yard with a shotgun to protect it from vandals  
(<https://www.livejournal.com/away?to=http%3A/www.zombiepumpkins.com/>):



Pumpkin-related behavior likely to increase the number of abandoned houses in the affected neighborhood  
(<https://www.livejournal.com/away?to=http%3A/www.extremepumpkins.com/>):



Please celebrate responsibly. Thank you.

TAGS: october, the most wonderful time of the year



[locked] Dream Journal


All right, unconscious mind. We're coming to an accommodation. If the dreams are you cleaning

Elvis doesn't live here anymore.

Hey there. Sorry about the drama. It was... it was an emotional decision, and I didn't

Poppets. Puppets. Poppet puppets. Scary.



 [hawkwing\\_lb](#)

[October 4 2008, 22:34:26 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Please thank the FBI, and kindly ask it to liaise responsibly with the relevant international law enforcement agencies so that we non-USians may also expect such helpful Public Service Announcements?

(Unfunny humour, I am known for it.)

Those are really cool pumpkins. :)




 [cvillette](#)

[October 5 2008, 04:26:15 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

The Worldwide Web makes us all one, and all may share the knowledge of the carving and the flaming. And also the grossing-outing. (The "The worms crawl in, the worms crawl out" edition is pretty eeeuuuw. \*g\*)



 [hawkwing\\_lb](#)

[October 5 2008, 18:45:52 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

"They go in thin, they come out stout. Whenever you see a hearse go by..." - that part of your Hallowe'en traditions too? :P

Oh, the internets. Whatever did we do without them?

*Deleted comment*



 [cvillette](#)

[October 5 2008, 04:23:25 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

It's the most wonderful time of the year!



 [tylik](#)

[October 4 2008, 22:57:09 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

I miss carving pumpkins. (Fully enclosed apartment - really, no point. Or rather, all the interesting places one could put a pumpkin would probably annoy the staff... and they've been so understanding about the chemicals, and the martial arts - they even let me practice sword in the basement halls when it's too muddy outside.)

The prevalence of kits, which encourage people to use standardized designs does rather irk me. Though the greater availability of the little detailing saws is awesome. K and I were just discussing the merits of detailing saws vs. surgical tools. Hm. Maybe what we need are a few \*lab\* pumpkins. (Though the obvious next place for this to go is into slug'o'lanterns... and then the cockroach people down stairs would have theirs, and the tobacco horn worm folks, and the crayfish lab....)



 [cvillette](#)

[October 5 2008, 04:28:33 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Jack o' lantern is better than no jack o' lantern, I say, however it comes to be. And yes, lab o' lanterns. Sounds like a plan. We had some really disturbing ones in grad school.



[tylik](#)

[October 5 2008, 18:07:01 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

And pumpkin carving is more fun with company - I suspect most of the neuromechanics group will to variations on their model animals of choice, but I wonder what the ecology folks will come up with? Most of them work with trees. (And I think I know how to get up onto the roof. Our building is one of the older ones, and has nifty crenelations which would be great for jack o' lanterns.)

What field(s)?



[inaurolillium](#)

[October 5 2008, 21:39:08 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Heh. They could always do a bunch of classic lanterns and get a hat tree or some sort of armature and do a Halloween Tree.



[inaurolillium](#)

[October 5 2008, 10:01:19 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

You can also, if you poke around the right kind of foodie sites, get interesting tools like vegetable chisels. Bird beak (also known as tournay) paring knives are handy, too.



[tylik](#)

[October 5 2008, 18:13:49 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

[Dear gods, I had no idea...](#)



[inaurolillium](#)

[October 5 2008, 21:37:51 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

Yep! Mine's not quite that extensive, but I like it.

They aren't, mostly, intended for use on pumpkins specifically, but rather on the wide array of squashes, melons and root vegetables that the Thai people (and others in that general area of Asia) traditionally carve into amazing shapes. You can look around on the above-linked site, google Thai vegetable carving, or watch the movie *Eat, Drink, Man, Woman* for examples of this amazing art form. I'm a novice at it, but I enjoy it, when I have the time.



[tylik](#)

[October 5 2008, 22:36:01 UTC](#) [COLLAPSE](#)

There is - or was, anyway - a restaurant in Bellevue that did a lot of vegetable art with their dishes. (One of their broccoli trees with a beautiful long tailed bird perched on a branch stands out particularly in my mind...) The food didn't stand up to the food art, but it was still a fun place to take the nerdsons.



[inaurolillium](#)

[October 6 2008, 03:55:16 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

Do you happen to recall the name? I'd like to at least see what they do, if they're still around.



[inaurolillium](#)

[October 5 2008, 21:47:00 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

I had missed that you were working with slugs. Out of curiosity, are you aware of Ursula Vernon's prophetic slugs, from her comic Digger?



[tylik](#)

[October 5 2008, 22:39:25 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

Technically *Aplysia californica*, a sea hare. But it's a slug. I mean, look at it:

[http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/ef/Aplysia\\_californica.jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/ef/Aplysia_californica.jpg)

(Ours tend to be mottled purple.) While I have spent a lot of time with common garden slugs, it has mostly been in a different capacity.

Prophetic slugs? Do tell! (One of the things we like about *Aplysia* is that they only have 20,000 neurons, which makes them slugs of very little brains.)



[inaurolillium](#)

[October 6 2008, 04:10:27 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

Well, Digger can be found [here](#), but much of the archives, including all the backstory on the prophet slugs, are available only to subscribers. The books are available from Amazon, too. It's a good story, though. But you wanted to know about prophetic slugs.

Erm. In Digger, there are various species of animals who are anthropomorphized and can talk, including wombats, hyenas (and the hyenas have a *fascinating* mythology to explain some of the peculiarities of hyena reproduction) and at least one deer-headed man. (There's also a talking statue and some vampire squash.) Slugs are not normally a talking species, but this particular type of slug had ancestors who got a little too cozy with a druid's beer, and a few hundred years later, they're still reading prophecy off dead leaves and passing it along to passersby. The slugs themselves admit to being abysmally stupid, which I find highly amusing.

I'm passingly aware of sea hares, but that's a particularly cool picture. And purple is always a good thing in my book.

[pdlloyd](#)

[October 4 2008, 23:54:54 UTC](#)

[COLLAPSE](#)

Cool. Risking my reputation as a mom, I have forwarded the link to my husband and our sons. I may regret this, if I live through Halloween. ;>

P.S. I'm going to be a gypsy fortune teller, with a crystal ball. What are you going to be for Halloween?



 [cvillette](#)

[October 5 2008, 04:22:27 UTC](#)    [COLLAPSE](#)

 Image

 [pdlloyd](#)

[October 5 2008, 07:46:24 UTC](#)    [COLLAPSE](#)

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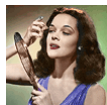


 [trollcatz](#)

[October 5 2008, 15:16:44 UTC](#)    [COLLAPSE](#)

He wants the accessory in the hat, that's all. \*g\*

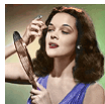
*Deleted comment*



 [Ometotchtli](#)

[October 5 2008, 15:15:27 UTC](#)    [COLLAPSE](#)

Claude Rains can't be impersonated by one person, for he contains enough concentrated awesome for three.



 [Ometotchtli](#)

[October 5 2008, 04:40:16 UTC](#)    [COLLAPSE](#)

We could do the serial-killer pumpkin and sneak it onto the Cowboy's front porch.




 [cvillette](#)

[October 5 2008, 05:06:26 UTC](#)    [COLLAPSE](#)

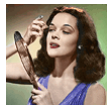
He'd know it was us.



 [trollcatz](#)

[October 5 2008, 12:31:00 UTC](#)    [COLLAPSE](#)

So? He always knows its us. Oh, gawd, why am I up?



 [Ometotchtli](#)

[October 5 2008, 15:12:58 UTC](#)    [COLLAPSE](#)

Same reason I am. The phone rang. It's like we attract it by having too much fun.



 [barsukthom](#)

[October 5 2008, 16:24:02 UTC](#)    [COLLAPSE](#)

Dremel Co. has come out with a specialty "Pumpkin-Carving-Tool"  
Yaay, technology!

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